

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 03763 161120Z

51

ACTION SS-30

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R 160936Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8568

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3763

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, NO

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI -- NORWEGIAN POSITION
ON IEP

REF: (A) STATE 175375; (B) LONDON 10345; (C) STATE 178412

1. I DELIVERED PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI
ON AUGUST 15 SINCE HE HAD BEEN AWAY FROM OSLO AT THE TIME OF ITS
RECEIPT. BRATTELI WAS DELIGHTED WITH THE MESSAGE AND THE
WAY IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT SEEMS TO BE TAKING HOLD DURING HIS
FIRST DAYS IN OFFICE.

2. DURING THE MEETING I STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE THE U.S.
ATTACHED TO THE IEP BOTH AS A DETERENT AND AS AN IMPORTANT
ELEMENT IN WESTERN EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY. I EMPHASIZED THE
HIGH IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION, REVIEWED
THE MATERIAL IN STATE 175375, POINTED OUT THAT ALL ECG
COUNTRIES BUT NORWAY HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE ON THE
IEP, AND STATED THAT, IF NORWAY DID NOT PARTICIPATE,
IT COULD UNDERMINE THE ENTIRE PROGRAM. BRITAIN COULD
BE DETERRED AND OTHER COUNTRIES MIGHT RECONSIDER. THE
ISSUE, THEREFORE, TRANSCENDED NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION.

3. BRATTELI STRESSED THAT NO FORMAL NORWEGIAN POSITION
HAD BEEN TAKEN AS YET ON NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OSLO 03763 161120Z

IEP. HE NOTED THE TIMETABLE FOR IEP CONSIDERATION AND

ASSURED ME THAT MY REMARKS WOULD BE WEIGHED CAREFULLY, THAT HE WOULD TAKE A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE MATTER, AND THAT WE WOULD BE INFORMED IF ANY PROBLEM AROSE.

4. ECONOMIC OFFICER ALSO REVIEWED MATERIAL IN STATE 175375 WITH ARNESEN ON AUGUST 13. ARNESEN SAID HE WAS PLEASED WITH AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING AND FLEXIBILITY AS WELL AS SWISS INTEREST IN IEP PARTICIPATION. HE NOTED FIGURES ON NORWEGIAN SHARE OF A SHORTFALL IN THE EVENT OF A FULL OAPEC EMBARGO OF HOLLAND AND THE U.S., ASKED FOR DETAILS OF HOW U.S. HAD ARRIVED AT 29,000 BARREL FIGURE, AND MENTIONED THAT THIS REPRESENTED ALMOST 20 PERCENT OF NORWEGIAN DAILY CONSUMPTION. HE ALSO URGED EMBASSY TO DEFER FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS TO OTHER MINISTRIES UNTIL FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND'S RETURN AND THE AMBASSADOR HAD SEEN HIM.

5. IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF WE COULD HAVE AN INDICATION OF THE REACTION OF THE FRENCH, SWEDES, SWISS, AUSTRALIANS, NEW ZEALANDERS, AND AUSTRIANS BY DAVIGNON AND OF THEIR WILLINGNESS TO JOIN THE IEP AS CHARTER MEMBERS. A U.S. STATEMENT TO THE NORWEGIANS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE U.S. WOULD WELCOME SWEDISH MEMBERSHIP AS A CHARTER MEMBER IN THE IEP WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL AS WOULD INFORMATION ON U.S. AND SWEDISH THINKING IN THIS REGARD. WE ALSO SUPPORT AN EARLY DAVIGNON VISIT TO OSLO TO PROMOTE IEP.

6. COMMENT: BRATTELI HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN BRIEFED ON THE IEP BUT APPARENTLY HAD NOT VIEWED IT IN ITS BROADER WESTERN EUROPEAN/TRANS-ATLANTIC CONTEXT. WHILE IT IS NOT HIS STYLE TO TIP HIS HAND WHEN HIS CABINET IS DIVIDED ON AN ISSUE, HE SEEMED FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARDS THE IEP, PARTICULARLY AS A LINK WITH THE WEST.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING (A) COPIES OF DAVIGNON'S REPORTS ON ECG AND IEP AS WELL AS DANISH DRAFT IEP AGREEMENT; (B) DATA FOR PASSAGE TO ARNESEN ON HOW NORWEGIAN SHARE OF SHORTFALLS IN VARIOUS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OSLO 03763 161120Z

EMBARGO SITUATION IS CALCULATED; (C) GUIDANCE ON U.S. POSITION WHETHER WE CAN TELL THE NORWEGIANS THAT WE WOULD WELCOME SWEDEN AS A CHARTER IEP MEMBER; AND (D) A REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF DAVIGNON'S CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER POTENTIAL CHARTER MEMBERS OF IEP.
BYRNE

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